

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, 13, and 14 are currently amended.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15-20 are hereby canceled.

Claims 21-28 are new.

As such, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, 13, 14, and 21-28 are currently pending in the application.

The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1, 2, 7-12, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,146,410 (*Akman*). Claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 17-20 are hereby canceled, and claim 8 depends from independent claim 1. Thus, claims 1, 8, and 11 stand or fall on the application of *Akman* to independent claims 1 and 11. According to MPEP § 2131, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” The Applicant respectfully asserts that *Akman* fails to teach each and every element of independent claims 1 and 11, and consequently fails to anticipate claims 1, 8, and 11.

Akman fails to anticipate claims 1, 8, and 11 because *Akman* fails to teach processing the message if the destination address of the message is different than a SP address and an address for which the message is intended. Claims 1 and 11 read:

1. A method, comprising:
 - receiving a message by a signaling proxy (SP), wherein the message has a source address and a destination address;
 - processing the message if the destination address of the message is different than a SP address and an address for which the message is intended**; and
 - sending the message.
11. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a receiving unit configured to receiving a message, wherein the message has a source address and a destination address;
 - a processing unit configured to **process the message if the destination address of the message is different than a SP address and an address for which the message is intended**; and
 - a sending unit configured to send the message.

(Emphasis added). As shown above, claims 1 and 11 recite processing the message if the destination address of the message is different than a SP address and an address for which the message is intended. In contrast, *Akman's* firewall/NAT only processes a message if the destination address of the message matches an address for which the message is intended:

FIG.3A shows an example that MG (10.12.2.2) 140 sends a MEGACO Offhook message 305 to the firewall/NAT 160. **The message 305 is intended for MGC (175.1.1.1)**. However, MGC 110 will not be able to recognize the source IP address of (10.12.2.2) since it is in another domain. The firewall/NAT 160 inspects the MEGACO Offhook message 305 and translates 310 the IP address (10.12.2.2) into an IP address (175.17.4.1).

Akman, col. 5, ll. 6-19 (emphasis added). As shown above, *Akman* teaches that the message 305 is processed only when the message is intended for the MGC (175.1.1.1), i.e. when the destination address of message is the address (175.1.1.1) of the MGC. Thus, *Akman* teaches that his firewall/NAT processes the message only if the destination address of the message is the address for which the message is intended. Thus, *Akman* fails to disclose processing the message if the destination address of the message is different than a SP address and an address for which the message is intended. As such, *Akman* fails to teach at least one element of independent claims 1 and 11, and consequently fails to anticipate claims 1, 8, and 11.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-6 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Akman* in view of U.S. Patent 7,454,525 (*Sethi*). Claims 3, 15, and 16 are canceled, claims 4-6 depend from claim 1, and claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 11. Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the cited prior art for the reasons given above, thus claims 4-6, 13, and 14 are also allowable over the cited prior art.

New Claims

New claims 21-28 recite novel and non-obvious aspects of the invention not disclosed by the cited prior art. Support for new claims 21-28 is found in paragraphs 52, 56, 77, and 78 of the specification and original claim 2. Thus, claims 21-28 do not contain any new matter. Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 1, and claim 23 depends from claim 11. Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the cited prior art for the reason given above, thus claims 21-23 are also allowable over the cited prior art. In addition, claims 24-28 are allowable over the cited prior art because the cited prior art fails to disclose a system, comprising a signaling proxy (SP) located between a terminal and a server, wherein the SP is configured to receive a message and process the message if at least one of a VPN ID, a VLAN ID, a MPLS ID, an IP protocol type, a source address, or a source port of the message meets a strategy of the SP.

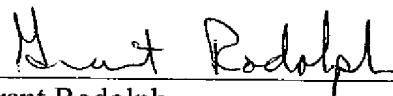
CONCLUSION

Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested by the Applicant. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated August 21, 2009 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: 9/9/09


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